



# PRESS RELEASE

08-351



**Date:** Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008  
**District:** 8 – San Bernardino  
**Contact:** Rose Melgoza(Caltrans)      Bob McKenzie(NDOT)  
**Phone:** (909) 383-6477      (702) 385-6504  
Cell (909) 289-2836      (702) 328-6629

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **I-15 SHUTDOWN AT STATE LINE FOR BLASTING OPERATION**

**San Bernardino** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will be closing Interstate 15 (I-15) on consecutive Wednesdays to conduct blasting and rock removal along the southbound I-15. The first closures are scheduled for December 10 and 17, 2008, from 10 am to 2 pm. Blasting will be suspended during the holidays, but will resume on Wednesday, January 7 and continue every Wednesday to approximately April 2009.

The full closures are necessary to maintain safety during the blasting. California Highway Patrol will initiate a traffic break and hold northbound travelers until the blasting is completed. Delays for the northbound travelers will be minimal. Southbound travelers who did not exit before Primm at the state line will be directed off the freeway by Nevada Highway Patrol to the Primm Valley resort area. This location offers a safe, comfortable and convenient area until the freeway re-opens. There is sufficient parking at Primm Valley to accommodate all motorists. Truckers are encouraged to exit at Jean off the I-15.

Caltrans is advising drivers leaving the Las Vegas Resort area to “**Leave Early or Stay Late**” to avoid the travel delays between 10 am and 2 pm. Electronic message boards will be activated in Nevada and California to warn motorists in advance of the closure.

- M O R E -





# PRESS RELEASE

08-351  
2-2-2-2

Caltrans District 8 Director Dr. Raymond Wolfe stated, "Our goal is to do the blasting under safe conditions and minimize public inconvenience." The original plan called for almost 90 separate blasting sessions. The new plan will greatly reduce public inconvenience. We have cut the closures by 2/3rds - from 90 to nearly 30 or less. That means only one day a week instead of 1-2 hour closures 4 days a week. This is more efficient and cost effective. Highway patrol officers will be there to maintain traffic control.

Caltrans is partnering with Nevada DOT and Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Regional Transportation Commission (South Nevada), and the California and Nevada Highway Patrol. The Nevada agencies have been supportive in making sure everything runs smoothly and safely. "Interstate 15 is the lifeline to Las Vegas and we look forward to working with Caltrans to improve the highway," stated NDOT Director Susan Martinovich. Thousands of flyers will be circulated through Nevada and southern California. The Automobile Club of Southern California has also agreed to share the news with their customers.

The blasting will be conducted by the contractor, Las Vegas Paving on southbound I -15 lanes between Yates Wells Road and Bailey Road. This \$91 Million project will add a southbound truck descending lane, paved shoulders and new longer-lasting pavement that offer a smoother ride on the I-15. To get the latest information about the scheduled work, go to **[www.Caltrans8.info](http://www.Caltrans8.info)**

###

